

Relating pg 8

Turning
a blind
eye to
affairs
of heart



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metro



HALIFAX • THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

metronews.ca



N.S. resident 6-49 winner

LOTTO Gwen Colbourne has reason to smile — 2.2 million reasons, actually.

The Dartmouth resident is Nova Scotia's newest millionaire, cashing in her winning ticket Tuesday for the March 7 Lotto 6-49 draw.

It took Colbourne two and a half weeks to realize she had won the millions as she stumbled upon her yet-to-be-checked ticket while doing her income taxes this week.

METRO HALIFAX

Riding the Recession

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

- Food
More tasty meals for a steal, pg 14
- Tomorrow
Our series concludes with an update on the economy.



Earth Hour

Before you turn your lights off Saturday at 8:30 p.m. to mark Earth Hour, Metro has some environmental stories to get you thinking green.

- Entertainment
Musicians are choosing to go green by planning tours that promote conservation and by packaging their materials with recycled materials, pg 16

- Style
We introduce you to some fashion designers who are making sustainable clothing, pg 15

- Metro Homes
Eco-friendly living is easier than you think. We give you some helpful tips, pg 13



House fire claims life

57-year-old described as a 'good neighbour' perishes in blaze

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A 57-year-old man who was a "good neighbour" died after a house fire in Fairview yesterday morning.

Fire crews were called to Glenda Crescent at 8:30 a.m., said fire spokesman Capt. Dave Meldrum.

"On arrival, our firefighters did encounter fire coming from the back one-third of a trailer-style home," he said. "The firefighters entered with hose lines to attack that fire, unfortunately they found a male occupant we believe to be (57) years old unconscious in the trailer."

Firefighters pulled him out and administered first aid until paramedics came. The man, identified by neighbours as John O'Brien, was in critical condition.

Police said the man was declared dead when he arrived at the hospital. The fire isn't suspicious in nature.

Fire investigators remained at the trailer for several hours yesterday morning, looking into the cause of the blaze. The trailer was gutted by fire, with the back end suffering most of the damage.

A neighbour, Pat Turner,



A fire investigator looks through a burned-out trailer home in Fairview yesterday. A 57-year-old man was killed in the blaze.

said she saw the fire as she went out to feed the birds yesterday morning.

"I tried calling John," she said. "But there was no reply. When I came back the flames were even bigger so I called 9-1-1."

A female police officer was first on the scene, Turner said. The officer kicked in the door, but it was too dan-

"I tried calling John. But there was no reply. When I came back the flames were even bigger so I called 9-1-1."

Pat Turner, neighbour

gerous to enter.

"It was like a carpet of smoke, the thickest, blackest smoke I've ever seen," Turner said.

Firefighters wearing masks crawled into the trailer and pulled O'Brien out, she said.

Theresa Kelly was fraught

with worry for her neighbour when his condition was still unknown yesterday morning.

She said O'Brien was retired and lived by himself. He moved into the trailer park three or four years ago.

"He loved it there," she said. "He was so nice and so happy here."

Halifax loves its daily Metro fix

NUMBERS If you're reading Metro Halifax, count yourself among the growing number of people doing it throughout HRM.

According to the latest Newspaper Audience Database survey results released yesterday, Metro Halifax has the highest reach of readers for any free daily in Canada. Fourteen per cent of people in HRM read Metro Halifax each day, and that number rises to 37 per cent over the course of a week.

"I am absolutely thrilled

by the results of our first readership survey," said Metro Halifax publisher Greg Lutes.

"Metro Halifax reaches 43,400 readers every day and over the course of a week one in three Haligonians read Metro Halifax."

"This is just outstanding as the survey was conducted in our first year of pub-



Greg Lutes

lishing and does not fully reflect our continued growth in circulation, which is now 33,000 copies Monday to Friday, up 32 per cent since our launch in February of 2008."

More good news from the survey is the vast majority of Canadians continue to read newspapers.

Last year, 69 per cent of Canadians — 12.9 million people — read a newspaper over the course of a week, and when online readers are added in, that number grows to 77 per cent.

"Newspapers continue to play an important role in the lives of Canadians," said Metro English Canada group publisher Bill McDonald. "Readers in the millions rely on newspapers every day for the information that is important to their lives."

As newspapers maintain their strength, Metro Canada is setting the industry standard — not just as the most read free daily in the country, but for all papers. Metro Canada now reaches more than 1.1 mil-

lion readers every day, an increase of 157,600 (17 per cent) over 2007. Weekly Metro readers in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver total 2.26 million, or 12 per cent more than in 2007.

"The Metro brand has solidified its leadership position from coast to coast," said McDonald. "Readers and advertisers alike turn to Metro first every day for information, ideas and inspiration."

METRO HALIFAX

Against two-for-one time credit

Nova Scotia Justice Minister and attorney general Cecil Clarke yesterday voiced his support for the proposed federal legislation that would eliminate the two-for-one time credit. Offenders who have spent time in a correctional facility awaiting a court appearance often receive the credit upon sentencing. **METRO HALIFAX**

3

Local



Checking how deer fared

Natural resources officials are checking deer carcasses to try to determine how the deer population managed during a long, hard winter. A string of mild winters had increased the deer population across the province to an estimated 55,500 — the highest it has been since the last real bad winter for deer in 2000-01.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

Wright takes plea on lesser charge

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COURT Cory Wright has pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the death of Damon Crooks, a member of the U.S. navy who was stabbed to death outside a nightclub on Argyle Street in November of 2006.



The trial for Wright was supposed to begin Monday, but in Halifax Supreme Court yesterday the Halifax resident entered a guilty plea to the lesser charge of manslaughter after a resolution conference was held. He was to stand trial for second-degree murder.

Sentencing is set for June 12, with Crooks' family expected to be in Halifax and have a prepared impact statement during the proceeding.

Wright has been in jail since being arrested shortly after the stabbing took place in the early morning hours of Nov. 4.

Crooks, a member of the USS Doyle, was stabbed three times outside the Rain nightclub.

ShareYourViews

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Alderney school stays open



Anna Carew cries tears of joy after the Halifax Regional School Board voted to keep Alderney Elementary School open during a meeting last night in Dartmouth.

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There were cheers and hugs last night as Alderney Elementary School in Dartmouth was saved from closure.

The school is less than half full, with 101 students out of a capacity for 220. But the Halifax Regional School Board didn't feel comfortable sending the students to Hawthorne and Southdale-North Woodside. Many board members said they worried about the safety of students walking along busy streets to the other schools, and that the facilities at those schools weren't up to par.

The vote had parents and students jumping to their feet in excitement.

"The key thing, I think, is that every child that comes to this school is known by name. And there's no bullying. It's a real community," said Sarah Lake, whose daughter, Jasmine Lawson, attends the school.

"All the teachers and the parents, we just felt passionately (about keeping the school open). Like, Jasmine was asking her friends at our church to pray."

It wasn't all good news for the Alderney community. One key factor for several board members was a possible housing development that could replace nearby Penhorn Mall and cause more demand for a school.

But several members said the school might have to be closed down the road if that development doesn't come to fruition.

"If the board decides this school is good tonight, if Penhorn Mall (development) doesn't pass then it doesn't guarantee this is not going to happen again in a couple years time," said board member Chris Poole.

"It's a writing on the wall type of thing." On Tuesday, the board decided to keep Saint Mary's School open in Halifax, but to close St. Patrick's-Alexandra in 2011.

RCMP investigate mailbox vandalism

CANADA POST The Halifax RCMP is investigating several complaints of vandalism to Canada Post mailboxes around HRM. During Monday night into Tuesday morning, vandalism was done to the super mailboxes at the 1400 block of Lucasville Road, and at the intersection of Pinetree and Rockcliffe crescents.

There were about 30 boxes smashed with some sort of hammer. The RCMP is also investigating vandalism at Fryday and St. Margaret's Bay Road where mailboxes had all the locks cut off.

METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

CHARGES Three people are charged with possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking after a traffic stop yesterday morning by Halifax Regional Police. A 27-year-old man and two women, aged 18 and 19, were occupants of a Mercury Cougar from which police observed a smell of marijuana. Marijuana and cash were seized. **METRO HALIFAX**

Rumours rife that AC/DC to play Moncton

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Halifax will need to keep a stiff upper lip as fans wait for the official announcement that AC/DC is coming to Moncton.

Rumours say the Aussie band will rock Magnetic Hill on Aug. 6th.

"Recently I heard it was confirmed for Moncton, and now we're just waiting for the official announcement," said Scott Ferguson, interim

CEO of Trade Centre Ltd.

But the City of Moncton said no show has been signed yet and an AC/DC concert is still just a rumour at this point.

Contrary to popular belief, there's no major rivalry between the two cities when it comes to concert venues, Ferguson said.

"Any success in Moncton or any of our sister cities is good for the region," he said. Moncton carved out the outdoor concert sector years ago while the Halifax



Brian Johnson, left, and Angus Young of AC/DC perform last October in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Common has only been a viable concert venue for a few years now.

"They've developed a fine concert site so good luck to

them," Ferguson said.

AC/DC promoters have been negotiating a show in Atlantic Canada for about a year and Halifax put in a bid.

Halifax is still proving itself as a venue for large outdoor shows," he added.

"Once we get a few more shows on board for the Common, I think it will turn into the dominant site for the Maritimes."

But it doesn't mean it will be a quiet summer in Halifax — KISS will play the Common on July 18th.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Blogs Love Bytes queries two women on the truths of same-sex relationships at metronews.ca/canada

Video Lawyers launch court challenges against controversial British MP George Galloway's entry ban at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 9, 15, 34, 42, 44 & 48. Bonus 13
These results are not official.

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TODAY ONLY!!!

Parents who are caregivers of children with disabilities can attend a free tax workshop today beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Sobeys on Windsor Street in Halifax. The Nova Scotia Partnership on Respite, Family Health and Well-Being and the Canada Revenue Agency will hold the session. **METRO HALIFAX**

Program pushes colon cancer tests

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SAMPLES The provincial government is kicking off a new program encouraging Nova Scotians to mail in their stool samples to save lives. The new Colon Cancer Prevention Program aims to get people between 50 and 74 regularly tested for colon cancer.

The test involves sending out kits that people can use in the privacy of their home to collect stool samples. Those can then be mailed back to the government where it will be tested for blood.

The Department of Health hopes people will do the test every two years. "Colon cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths in Nova Scotia," Health Minister Karen Casey said in a release. "Each year, about 800 men and women are diagnosed with colon cancer, and almost half of them will die."

The program is being phased in over two years.

Fashion week kicks off

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Garbed in creations from local designers, models will strut it out on the runway this weekend.

It's the spring edition of Atlantic Fashion Week where up-and-coming and established designers are given the canvas and the audience to appreciate their work. While it may be

Lineup

Friday Designer Showcase (part 1) 8 p.m.; Olympic Centre. Tickets \$20

Saturday Designer Showcase (part two) 8 p.m. at the Olympic Centre. Tickets \$20

Sunday Designer Closing Shopping Party, Vibe Salon on the Bedford Highway

los.

"We had 17 local designers (in the fall show) and I think that shocked a lot of



Makeup artist Donna Bramley, left, applies eyeshadow on her student Jessica Winmill at the Hair Design Centre in Clayton Park yesterday. Bramley, and her company Makeup Originals, are participating in Atlantic Fashion Week which starts today and runs until Sunday.

people, but that's just the tip of the iceberg," she said. "There are all these little hidden communities, which is really the point of this."

There will be about the same number of designers showcased this time around, she added. It's free

for designers here and Sotiropoulos wants to keep it that way.

"It was always my dream to offer an event where young designers can take part," she said "The designers get to have professional models, runway, and advertisements."

A model at 14 and a designer at 21, Sotiropoulos had to work under other labels at first because it was too difficult to get her own designs out there.

About 800 people are expected to take in two days of fashion shows starting tomorrow.

Recall legislature, NDP tells Tories

SESSION The tug of war over recalling the provincial legislature continued yesterday, with the NDP calling on the Tories to bring the House of Assembly back in session.

Yesterday was exactly four months after the fall session ended. Given the customary 30-day notice period, the NDP says the earliest a spring sitting could begin is end of April.

"The premier should recall the legislature immediately and show Nova Scotians a budget, and the specifics of his proposed stimulus spending plan," NDP's Darrell Dexter said in a release. "Based on the little information put forward, Nova Scotians only know that the premier has a debt-creation plan."

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

CORRECTION Kyle Buott, co-ordinator of the Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network, was misquoted from a release in yesterday's Metro Halifax. The quote should have read, "This should be a public service, run on a non-profit basis to enhance the health-care system."

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Good call

Preview of Alderney Landing events

Exhibitions planned for downtown Dartmouth and the waterfront will be on display today at Alderney Landing Market from 5 to 8 p.m. Projects include the Dartmouth Harbourwalk Trail, HRMbyDesign, the Highland Games and Scottish Festival and upcoming events at Alderney Landing. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local impact of CBC cuts not yet known

Public broadcaster to eliminate 800 positions countrywide

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The CBC is cutting 800 jobs across Canada, but it's not yet known how many local positions will be lost.

Staff across the country learned the news yesterday. But detailed breakdowns will come out in further meetings, which begin today.

"Obviously we're all incredibly sad," said veteran Halifax CBC Radio reporter

"Obviously we're all incredibly sad. We'll be seeing some of our colleagues go out the door by September."

Jean Laroche

Jean Laroche. "We'll be seeing some of our colleagues go out the door by September."

Employees will be subjected to a bumping system similar to what was seen recently at The Chronicle Herald. Workers with more experi-

ence who have their position cut can replace an employee with less seniority.

In this case, bumping could happen across the Maritime region.

Laroche said he expects these cuts to hurt even more than the layoffs of the

mid-1990s because there are now fewer people in the CBC workforce.

"For those of us who have been around long enough, this is déjà vu all over again," he said.

Executives announced they would cut 393 positions in English services and 336 in French services to cover a \$171-million shortfall. The broadcaster also needs to sell \$125 million in assets.

MORE COVERAGE, PG 9

Fewer people visiting coast

TOURISM The total visitors to Nova Scotia dipped by three per cent in 2008, but the economic impact on the province's tourism industry remained on par with two years ago.

The province released its tourism numbers for last year yesterday and it showed that Nova Scotia welcomed almost 2.8 million visitors, resulting in an economic impact of \$1.33 billion.

There was also a slight increase (one per cent) in the number of room nights sold.

The downward trend of American visitors to the province continued its decline as there was a 15 per cent drop. There was also a two per cent drop in visitors from the rest of the country. The only increase (one per cent) came in visitors from overseas.

Tourism, Culture and Heritage Minister Bill Dooks said in a release he feels the province "held its own" in 2008, and is set to launch a new marketing plan to grow the market even more.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO HALIFAX

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Tip of the Day:
Practicality is responsibility's good neighbor. — Greg Evans

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About 30 homes in St. Andrews, Man., about 20 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg, have been evacuated and firefighters are warning other residents to be ready to go. Ice jams on the Red River are causing water to back up over the banks, while frozen culverts are preventing the water from draining through the ditches. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Guilty verdict in Livent trial

Garth Drabinsky, left, and Myron Gottlieb have been found guilty of fraud and forgery at Livent Inc., the award-winning live theatre company they co-founded. Ontario Superior Court Justice Mary Lou Benotto delivered her judgment yesterday, 11 months after the trial began. The sentencing process will begin April 8.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

MEDIA Canada's broadcast regulator said yesterday it may eventually accede to a request by struggling conventional television broadcasters that they be paid for the carriage of their signals by cable companies.

AVAILANCHE The snowmobiler who was left unconscious after an avalanche struck in south-east B.C., has died, according to a search and rescue official. So far, 19 people have died in B.C. avalanches this year.

TAXES The Ontario government is expected to introduce harmonization of the province's sales tax with the GST in its budget today to stimulate the province's sagging economy. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Tories look to end sentencing credits

The Conservative government says it will legislate an end to the practice that allows judges to calculate a "two-for-one" sentencing credit for time that prisoners spend in pre-trial custody.

Weeks after British Columbia justice officials made an impassioned appeal to Ottawa for the measure, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson said he would introduce legislation tomorrow to further curb judges' sentencing discretion.

Right now, judges can

"This ... will be to unduly punish the poor who can't afford a release on bail prior to trial."

Heather Pringle, lawyer

give credit for so-called "dead time" that offenders spend in detention centres prior to trial and sentencing. It's seen as a way to account for time served in cramped cells where there is no access to drug or alcohol treatment or other therapeutic programs provided in long-term penitentiaries or provincial jails, while a

case winds its way through the courts.

Defence lawyer Heather Pringle said the law would punish the poor.

"This legislation is simply political pandering, and its impact will be to unduly punish the poor who can't afford a release on bail prior to trial."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION BAYERS ROAD / HIGHWAY 102 / HIGHWAY 107



The Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) are exploring the future best use of the Bayers Road/Highway 102 Corridor from Windsor Street, Halifax to Fall River. The study includes traffic projections and functional designs that could be implemented in stages over a 30-year period. The location of the proposed Highway 107 from Akerley Blv in Burnside to Highway 102 near Duke Street (Exit 4C) has also been updated and evaluated. The study was conducted by Stantec Consulting on behalf of NSTIR and HRM. The following public information session will be held to present the findings of the study and the functional design of the roadways and interchanges:

Thursday, March 26, 2009

at the Park Place Hotel & Conference Centre, Ramada Plaza,
240 Brownlow Avenue, Dartmouth, from 4pm to 6pm.

NSTIR, HRM and Consultant staff will be in attendance at the public information session to discuss the study and answer questions. If you have questions regarding the upcoming session, please contact Bernadette Landry, P. Eng at 434-7331 or by e-mail at bernadette.landry@stantec.com.



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2010 Show of support



Papineau MP Justin Trudeau, wife Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau and their son, Xavier, stopped in at an event in Ottawa yesterday that was introducing the area's first torchbearer for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

French bid for Atlantic shelf rights slammed

SEA FLOOR Ottawa criticized France yesterday for trying to claim exploration rights off Canada's east coast, home to rich reserves of natural resources.

Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon said Ottawa "will take all necessary measures to defend and protect its rights with respect to its continental shelf."

The dispute concerns the two tiny French islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, which sit just off the coast of Newfoundland.

Cannon said France had revived a claim for the rights to an extended continental shelf from the islands, despite a June 1992 agreement which he said had settled the matter once and for all.

REUTERS

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Warning system engaged: Investigators

Investigators say the flight data recorder from last month's plane crash outside of Buffalo, N.Y., shows the stall warning system on the plane activated before the crash. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

7

World

Blame U.S.: Clinton

Drug appetite fuels violence, she says

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said yesterday that an "insatiable" appetite in the United States for illegal drugs was to blame for much of the violence plaguing Mexico.

"We are. How could anybody conclude any differently?" Clinton told reporters in response to a question during a flight to Mexico for a two-day visit likely to be dominated by a drug war that killed 6,300 people in Mexico last year.

Clinton's visit comes as Washington has announced plans to ramp up security on the increasingly dangerous U.S.-Mexico border. Fears are growing that the

spiraling violence in Mexico will spill over into the southern United States.

"Our insatiable demand for illegal drugs fuels the drug trade. Our inability to prevent weapons from being illegally smuggled across the border to arm these criminals causes the death of police officers, soldiers and civilians," Clinton said. "I feel very strongly we have a co-responsibility."

Clinton will meet with Mexican President Felipe Calderon and discuss a broad range of U.S.-Mexican issues, including immigration and trade. Her visit also includes a

stop in the northern business city of Monterrey Thursday.

Clinton said the Obama administration was making progress on resolving a trucking dispute with Mexico and expected the U.S. Congress to be receptive to its ideas.

She also sought to address a belief among many Mexicans that the United States does not take sufficient responsibility for the \$40 billion US in illegal narcotics smuggled in from Mexico each year. Some feel the plans by Washington to better patrol its border are long overdue.



Clinton

REUTERS

Manila Clash over U.S. treaty



A woman activist grabs the wooden stick of a riot policeman during a scuffle outside the U.S. embassy in Manila yesterday. The protesters denounced a treaty between the Philippines and the U.S. that allows troops to conduct military exercises in the country.

News in brief

GOVERNMENT Islamic Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has no need for women members of parliament or elections, a senior prince said in remarks published yesterday.

MISSILES North Korea has positioned what is believed to be a Taepodong-2 long-range ballistic missile on its launch pad at a facility in Musudanri, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported yesterday, citing "sources close to Japan-U.S. relations." North Korea has maintained that it would launch a satellite between April 4 and April 8.

REUTERS

Economic crisis raises French social tension

LABOUR Workers at a factory operated by the U.S. firm 3M looked set to hold their French manager hostage for a second night in protest against plans to lay off half the staff.

The industrial director of the group, Luc Rousselet, was barricaded in an office on Tuesday evening and workers have refused to let him out until he agrees to more favourable terms for the 110 employees who face the axe.

"These people have more to complain about than me and I knew there was this risk when I came here," Rousselet told reporters from his office, where the door has been blocked by a wardrobe.

Social tensions are rising in France because of the economic crisis. More than two million people are already unemployed and hundreds of thousands more are expected to lose their jobs this year.

REUTERS

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Iraq.....4.9 ¢	Syria.....18.9 ¢
Israel.....2.9 ¢	U.A.E.....19.9 ¢

Latin America

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Haiti.....16.9 ¢	Bolivia.....6.9 ¢
Honduras.....15.9 ¢	Chile.....2.9 ¢
Panama.....3.9 ¢	Colombia.....3.9 ¢
Uruguay.....7.9 ¢	Dominican Rep.....6.9 ¢
Venezuela.....2.9 ¢	Mexico.....2.9 ¢

South Asia

INDIA 6¢	PAKISTAN 5¢
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Comment

Wading in ignorance

There is nothing but doomed love on an island of doubt

Relating

Andrea Woo

metronews.ca/woo

"Somebody said they saw you/The person you were kissing wasn't me/And I would never ask you/I just kept it to myself/I don't wanna know/If you're playing me, keep it on the low..." — Mario Winans, I Don't Wanna Know

There are those who would call Winans a pathetic chump, a clod so frightened by what lies in the murky depths of his sordid relationship that he opts to stay in the shallow end, wading blissfully in the

serene waters of his own ignorance.

Who, after all, wants to play the sucker while his or her partner dives headfirst into some illicit affair?

But to understand his point is not difficult. There is comfort, undoubtedly, in blinding oneself to the acerbic truths of a rocky relationship, choosing instead to take refuge in some alternate reality where passion is limitless and temptations are wholly eclipsed by an unwavering love usually only articulated

On the web

For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

lated by the greatest of poets or the very, very drunk.

In this world, word is bond and life is easy. There are no sleepless nights or wandering minds, no red flags or question marks. Worries dissipate with the long exhale of a sigh of relief.

But those who have come here before — to this land where people turn a blind eye to lying,

deception and infidelity — know it is not a place where anyone stays for very long.

It is a temporary hideout at best; at worst, an open field where salvageable relationships go to die.

With the exception of the truly neurotic and the painfully insecure, an unshakable sense of suspicion is seldom completely without merit. Something in the minds or the hearts of the wise makes them aware of this, and to ignore it is never a good idea.

Of those who pack up and flee, some will be called crazy — and indeed, they may be — but others will have done so knowing there is nothing but doomed love on an island of doubt.

Sorry, Winans.

Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter. She won this column in a carnival dart game.



Letters

Taste the slow-food movement for yourself

Re: Mark Trealtout (*Slow-food movement just tastes better*, March 5)

It's true, slow food does taste better. Mark Trealtout was correct when he said "the average urbanite has no idea how to raise a pig, harvest wheat, or store the summer's bounty for winter use."

While a lot of people understand the movement conceptually, we in the restaurant industry and local leaders need to give people good guidance on how to become fully involved.

The first step is definitely the Internet. Through a few basic searches, readers will find suppliers, retailers and restaurants that have embraced the cause throughout Canada.

However, a true understanding for the purpose of the slow-food movement can only be developed by tasting the end product. Anyone with the slightest interest can easily make a reservation at a restaurant that participates in producing high-quality slow food from local communities to see and learn what we're all about.

There's no tastier and more fulfilling place to start.

MICHAEL SANGREGORIO,
TORONTO

Banning British MP is an affront to freedom of speech

How dare does Immigration Minister Jason Kenney presume to decide who can speak publicly in this country, and what I, as a free Canadian citizen, can listen to, read and watch?

In Canada we consider freedom of speech a fundamental right in our democracy. Banning British MP George Galloway from speaking at scheduled public meetings in Canada during his North American speaking tour is an affront to Canadian democracy and the intrinsic right of freedom of speech.

Canadians have the right to hear Galloway whether they agree with his positions on the Middle East or not. As a minister and MP, Kenney has claimed to be a proponent of freedom of speech. Apparently, he is afraid of what Galloway has to say.

I call on the minister to allow Galloway to come to Canada and speak.

WALIED KHOGALI, TORONTO

Views

Kids shouldn't be involved in tug of war

ModernLife

Georgie Binks

Once upon a time there was a very brave man with an equally brave ex-wife. Every morning for three years the man ate breakfast at his former home. He and his ex-wife didn't much like each other but they loved their kids.

If you're divorced and share kids, you know these two deserve medals for extreme bravery — if for nothing more than keeping the corn flakes down.

I know previously married women and men who so hate each other they've missed everything from graduations to christenings.

Others humiliate non-paying ex-spouses to their children, while some battle issues like summer camp in court, something that makes Toronto judge Harvey Brownstone wild. "I never took a course in law school that told me what camp their kids should go to."

Brownstone's newly published book *Tug of War* is a great wakeup call for warring parents — they should be handing it out in the maternity wards. Brownstone says parents should attend counselling, mediation — whatever it takes to get over their issues. "You have to see someone you hate, who may not have been a

good partner, as possibly a good parent."

In fact, with so many divorces, your relationship with your ex, if you have kids, is likely the most important one you'll ever have, but the one for which you'll be the least prepared. And it isn't any easier with an adversarial legal process often fuelled by combative lawyers.

Calgary registered mediator Elaine Bucknum says parents need to view their new relationship as a business one — the business of raising healthy, well-functioning children. "You have a business you can't quit, so figure out a way to communicate and deal with issues."

"You have to see someone you hate, who may not have been a good partner, as possibly a good parent."

Judge Harvey Brownstone

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Canadians among most optimistic about economy: Report

Amid doom and gloom about the global recession, Canadians are among the most optimistic worldwide when it comes to their financial futures, says a new report. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

9

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

CBC to slash 800 workers

Network sees \$171M shortfall

The CBC will cut up to 800 jobs and seek to sell assets to fight a growing financial shortfall caused by a sharp advertising downturn, it said yesterday.

The CBC, which has about 9,850 employees and receives more than \$1 billion a year in funding from the federal government, said it expects the shortfall to hit \$171 million in its 2009-2010 fiscal year.

It said its projections assume the government will authorize \$125 million in asset sales. It blamed its woes on weak ad markets, higher costs, a base-salary funding shortfall and ag-

ing infrastructure.

"People are the foundation of our success," chief executive Hubert Lacroix said in a statement. "But in a company where 60 per cent of the overall budget goes to salaries, it's simply impossible to bridge a gap of this magnitude without having a major impact on people."

"It's simply impossible to bridge a (financial) gap of this magnitude without having a major impact on people."

Hubert Lacroix, CBC

The CBC also said it will scale back regional radio and TV programming and make cuts in news, drama, music and current affairs. As well, it will cut executive compensation by up to 20 per cent, cut discretionary spending and reduce hiring.

REUTERS

CFOs unimpressed by Obama's plans: Survey

FINDINGS U.S. finance chiefs are mostly unimpressed by the Obama administration's efforts to stimulate the economy, but optimism about their own companies increased slightly for the first time in three years, a survey re-

ported yesterday.

A majority of CFOs, 58 per cent, said their confidence in the economy has weakened since Obama's inauguration, according to the quarterly survey conducted by Financial Executives International and

Baruch College's Zicklin School of Business.

The survey, which interviewed 334 corporate CFOs, found optimism about the U.S. economy at an all-time low, with eight of 10 executives expecting no signs of a recovery until

at least the first half of 2010. Among these, a third predict a recovery is even further away, possibly starting only in 2011.

Still, optimism about their own companies improved slightly to 58.9 per cent from 58.1. **REUTERS**

The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Nova Scotia residential sales up in February:

MLS said yesterday that home sales in Nova Scotia were up in February 2009 from where they stood over the past three months, but they remained below levels reported one year earlier, according to statistics released by the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors. There were 581 home sales recorded for the month.

Courtyard awarded:

The Courtyard by Marriott Halifax Downtown was recently awarded a platinum service award for overall guest satisfaction during 2008.

Steele joins film board:

Judy Steele, Emera Energy's vice-president of finance, has been appointed to the board of directors of Film Nova Scotia for a three-year term.

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U.S. durable goods orders, home sales rise

REPORTS New orders for long-lasting U.S.-made goods rose in February for the first time in seven months and new home sales rebounded, government reports showed yesterday, suggesting the economic downturn might be easing a bit.

The Commerce Department said orders for durable goods rose 3.4 per cent to \$165.6 billion US in February, the biggest gain since December 2007, after a 7.3 per cent plunge the prior month.

In another report, the department said sales of newly built U.S. single-family homes rose at their fastest pace in 10 months in February.

REUTERS

In brief

HOSPITALITY Hotel investment across Canada fell 77 per cent to \$1.1 billion in 2008, according to a report released yesterday by Colliers International Hotels.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Cyclist Lance Armstrong is recovering from surgery yesterday on his broken collarbone. A steel plate and 12 screws were inserted to stabilize the collarbone, but Armstrong said he still hopes to ride in the Giro d'Italia in May and the Tour de France in July. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



"There is a grave danger ... and that is match-fixing ... Buying players and referees is what worries me."

UEFA president Michel Platini, left, at the UEFA congress in Denmark yesterday. Platini said match-fixing is international soccer's biggest problem. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Curling **Canada falls to Denmark**



Canada skip Jennifer Jones reacts yesterday during play against Denmark. Despite falling 7-5, Canada is still in the playoffs at the women's world curling championship in Korea, tied with Denmark in second at 7-2, behind China.

Pens hotter than Flames

NHL RESULT

Penguins 2, Flames 0

Kris Letang and Hal Gill each scored a goal and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped all 31 shots faced for his fourth shutout of the season, as the Pittsburgh Penguins held off the Calgary Flames, 2-0, at Mellon Arena.

Sidney Crosby notched an assist and extended his point streak to 10 games, while NHL points leader Evgeni Malkin also had a helper for the Penguins, who recovered after having a three-game winning streak snapped against Philadelphia on Sunday.

Pittsburgh now has 88 points and sits in sixth place in the Eastern Conference. Mikka Kiprusoff



Sidney Crosby changes direction on Warren Peters last night.

turned in a solid performance between the pipes for Calgary, stopping 26-of-28 shots.

The Flames, who were coming off a 5-3 win over Detroit on Monday, have split their last six games.

Calgary, with 90 points, leads the Northwest Division, three ahead of Vancouver and is in third place in the Western Conference behind Detroit and San Jose.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

PBL

ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT
y-Manchester	16	4	.800
x-Vermont	13	6	.684
HALIFAX	10	8	.556
Quebec	4	13	.235
Montreal	3	11	.214

CENTRAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT
y-Battle Creek	16	2	.889
Detroit	6	12	.333
Chicago	6	12	.333
Mid-Michigan	2	11	.154

ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT
x-Rochester	14	3	.824
x-Wilmington	13	5	.722
Augusta	10	10	.500
Buffalo	1	17	.056

ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

x-clinched playoff spot	
y-clinched wild-card berth	
SATURDAY'S GAME	
Montreal at Halifax, 7 p.m.	
SUNDAY'S GAME	
Montreal at Halifax, 2 p.m.	

QMJHL

PLAYOFFS - YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Drummondville 3 Lewiston 3	
Shawinigan 2 Victoriaville 1 (OT)	
Quebec 5 Baie-Comeau 2	
Rimouski 4 Chicoutimi 3	
P.E.I. 5 Moncton 4	
Cape Breton 3 Saint John 2	
Halifax 4 Acadie-Bathurst 0	
Rouyn-Noranda 3 Montreal 2	

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Carolina 2 Ottawa 1	
Pittsburgh 2 Calgary 0	
Buffalo 5 Florida 3	
Minnesota 6 N.Y. Islanders 2	
San Jose at Chicago	
Anaheim at Colorado	



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Huskies' Power 'hits to hurt'

Gritty forward key to team's hopes of University Cup championship

MATTHEW WUEST
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Colin Power is the Saint Mary's Huskies' hit man.

Hits along the boards, hits behind the net, hits in open ice — hits just about anywhere, and hits that make an impact. If an opponent has his head down, Power is zeroing in.

"He's a very feared man in our league," says Huskies head coach Trevor Stienburg. "He hits to hurt."

The Mount Pearl, N.L., native will be a key factor for the Huskies when they open the University Cup national men's hockey championship today in Thunder Bay, Ont.

The Huskies are known for a five-man power-play unit that scores at will, buoyed by national player of the year Marc Rancourt and a bevy of all-Canadian-calibre talent. But a Power-led corps of hard-working role players is the engine that drove Saint Mary's to an Atlantic University Sport title.

"I'm the kind of guy who'd rather get a huge hit than score the big goal," admits Power, a graduate of the Ontario Hockey League. "Guys look to me for motivation, for big hits to get them going. That's the role I've always played."

Hard-hitting defence-men are valuable enough these days, but a forward that does the same is rare. His mere presence can be enough to make a nervous opposing blue-liner commit a turnover after rushing a decision with the puck.

"There have been a lot of guys in this league who have bailed out at the last minute because they know it's him coming, and I don't blame them at times," Stienburg says.



Hard-hitting forward Colin Power will be a key factor for the Saint Mary's Huskies when they open the University Cup national men's hockey championship today in Thunder Bay, Ont.

Teammate Brandon Verge describes the five-foot-11, 205-pound Power as "thick," and Stienburg says he "leverages every bit of his weight" for his hits. It comes as no surprise that Power is a workout fanatic in the off-season.

Between hits, Power

found time to score eight goals and six assists for 14 points in 28 games. But what the Huskies are counting on the most is the fear factor he brings.

"He's an eye-catching momentum-changer," Stienburg says. "We'll need him on his game to be successful."

Rancourt top player

• Marc Rancourt has been named player of the year for Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's hockey.

The fourth-year centre is the first Saint Mary's player in 26 years to claim the Sena-

tor Joseph A. Sullivan Trophy after finishing as the only player in the CIS with an average of more than two points per game. Rancourt finished atop the country with 57 points.

Former Tiger gets his shot

NEW BRUNSWICK Jimmy Cuddihy has put four seasons of losing hockey behind him with the New Brunswick Varsity Reds.

The fifth-year forward transferred to the Fredericton, N.B., school last fall after suffering through four consecutive non-playoff campaigns with the Dalhousie Tigers.

He has already been part of 25 victories, including playoffs, two more wins than he was part of during his 112-game career at Dalhousie. In the process, the six-foot-three, 204-pound centre posted a career-best 41-point campaign.

"It's shown me how much fun hockey can be again," Cuddihy said. "Not that I didn't have fun at Dal. I had a lot of good buddies. But you can get complacent in losing, and winning gets contagious. It's shown in my play."

Cuddihy is listed as day-to-day with an upper-body injury for the University Cup in Thunder Bay, Ont.

METRO HALIFAX

Duffy scores his first playoff goal

QMJHL Lower Sackville's Ben Duffy scored his first career playoff goal as the P.E.I. Rocket prevented a sweep at the hands of the Moncton Wildcats last night with a 5-4 win in Charlottetown in the best-of-seven QMJHL first round. At Saint John, N.B., the host Sea Dogs were swept 4-0 by the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles. Robert Slaney collected a pair of goals in the win.

METRO HALIFAX

Sports in brief

QMJHL Matt McKnight has resigned as president and governor of the Lewiston Maineiacs. The former Halifax Mooseheads marketing director had been with the team for eight seasons, including two while it was in Sherbrooke, Que.

METRO HALIFAX

NHL Toronto Maple Leafs goaltender Martin Gerber was suspended three games without pay yesterday by the NHL. Gerber was given the suspension for his actions late in regulation of Tuesday's shootout win over Washington. Upset over a goal being allowed, Gerber angrily made contact with referee Mike Leggo and shot the puck at the officials.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Atlantic title brings more favourable pool position

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

SEEDING The Saint Mary's Huskies did themselves a big favour at the University Cup by entering as Atlantic champions. But that doesn't mean it's going to be a cakewalk.

The No. 2-ranked Huskies open the Canadian Interuniversity Sport

men's hockey championship in Thunder Bay, Ont., today at 3 p.m. against the fifth-ranked McGill Redmen.

The No. 3 Western Ontario Mustangs are also in their pool.

They've avoided the Alberta Golden Bears and New Brunswick Varsity Reds — traditional powerhouses that landed in the other pool — and are hop-

"We worked hard, we did the little things and we were on the same page. But don't forget, we got some breaks."

Huskies head coach Trevor Stienburg

ing to keep the momentum rolling after beating the V-Reds in the conference final.

"I very much like our chances if we play like that," said Huskies head

coach Trevor Stienburg. "We worked hard, we did the little things and we were on the same page. But don't forget, we got some breaks."

"It's got to be that per-

fect storm."

If the Huskies win, they will get a day off before facing Western Ontario.

If they lose, they play Western Ontario tomorrow.

The championship is Sunday at 3 p.m.

Stienburg's message to his troops is, "Don't go out with the fear of failure, but with the opportunity for success."

More options

Stanley Home Designs also offers its new accent line in Satin Nickel as well. Both items are available where Stanley products are sold. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Metro Homes

Accents

No matter what your budget, get a fresh new look by simply replacing worn, dingy kitchen cabinet knobs and pulls with Egyptian Bronze selections from the Stanley Home Designs decorative hardware line. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Eco-friendly living can be easy to do

RAFAEL BRUSILOV
for Metro Canada

From solar-powered garden lights to patio furniture made from recycled plastics, living green at home is easier — and cheaper — than you may think.

"Living an eco-friendly lifestyle doesn't have to cost a lot of money and it can actually save you money while saving the environment," said Kate Dobrucki, a spokesperson for the Designs for Living Home & Garden Show.

Creative eco-friendly options start outdoors with recycled patio furniture, produced from the husks of plastic milk, juice and water bottles. The furniture looks pretty snazzy, is as strong as regular patio furniture and weathers exceptionally well, making it a great way to have an eco-friendly backyard.

Rain barrels placed below the gutters from your roof can let you save hundreds of gallons of rain water for watering your lawn rather than letting it wash over your driveway or sink into the soil near your foundation.

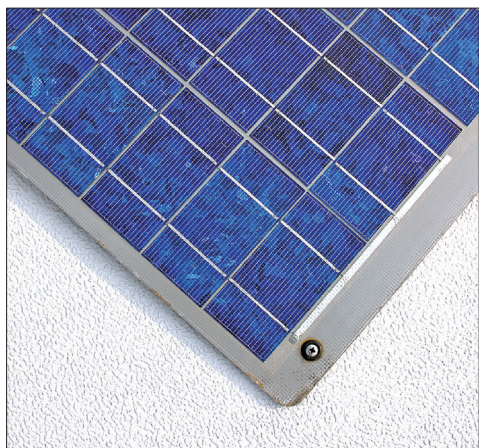
For things like garden lights, why bother paying to power them at all when you can let nature do it for free? Solar-powered garden lights can let you enjoy an outdoor evening on your patio without having to flip a switch.

"During the day when the sun is out, the lights collect sunlight and then in the evening you can have your garden lit up with no electricity required," Dobrucki said.

As for in-home energy saving solutions, Dobrucki says many are actually a lot easier to do than people think.

Most modern thermostats let you turn down your heat when you're not at home so make sure to replace yours with a programmable one to help you save energy.

Incorrectly placed insu-



While these solar panels may not be feasible for the average home, solar powered garden lights are — and they can light up your garden at night for free once you buy them.

EarthHour

lation can make a big difference in energy costs as well, Dobrucki says, so consulting an expert to see if there are key places where you need to add more or rearrange your current insulation more efficiently can be benefi-

cial and initial home inspections are often free.

That ancient second fridge in the basement is an energy hog as well, wasting up to \$120-\$150 every year in energy costs and often filled with questionable remnants of long-forgotten food. It's a good idea to take a look at whether the scraps you're keeping in your second fridge are truly worth run-

"Living an eco-friendly lifestyle doesn't have to cost a lot of money and it can actually save you money while saving the environment."

Kate Dobrucki, from the Designs for Living Home & Garden Show

ning up your energy bill. "How much of that food is freezer-burned, how long has it been sitting there and are you going to actually eat it?" Dobrucki said.



Spring cleaning time

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz

metronews.ca/homescape

As I gaze out my window, I realize I am yearning for spring, for the soft green fuzz on the trees when the leaves start to unfurl, for the greening of grasses in the fields, for the first tender leaves of perennials in my garden.

The only problem is I can't see a thing through my smudged, winter-weary windows.

Which brings me to the topic of spring cleaning.

Spring cleaning is all about welcoming the sun-

ny season with open arms. Here are some tips which you may embrace, use partially, or not at all.

- Launder and put away winter clothing. (But wait till the winter has definitely departed.)

- Clean those windows and let the glorious sun shine through.

- Start from the ceiling and work down. Dust the ceiling and ceiling fan, if you have it, the corners between the ceiling and walls and spot clean any dirt on the wall, cabinets and the backsplash in the kitchen;

- Wipe baseboards and the corners of the floor. Pay special attention to closet areas where winter coats and boots were stored.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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Cousin's Restaurant (3545 Robie St., Halifax, 455-8931) offers up a fresh haddock meal with all the fixings plus soup, coffee and dessert for only \$9.95. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Food

The main syrup-producing trees are sugar maples, red maples and silver maples.

BARB HOLLAND/FOR METRO CANADA



One tree

During the maple sugaring season an average tree yields between 35 and 50 litres of sap, this will produce between 1 and 1.5 litres of maple syrup.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

The secret's in the syrup

À la carte

Barb Holland

metronews.ca/alacarte

It's finally spring and that heralds many things — shedding heavy clothing for one, and celebrating maple syrup season for another.

Canada produces about 85 per cent of the world's maple syrup and sells to nearly 45 countries. The majority comes from Quebec, by far the world's largest producer, with about 75 per cent of world production. Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia produce smaller amounts. Vermont



Maple Walnut Oat Squares.

is the largest U.S. producer along with other northeastern states.

Maple syrup is graded as: Canada #1: Extra Light, Light and Medium (for table use); Canada #2: Amber (stronger flavour, ideal for cooking); Canada #3: Dark (for commercial use only).

Beyond pancakes and waffles, maple syrup is tasty in many things, as these squares will attest.

Be sure to buy Canadian and check the label says pure maple syrup.

Maple Walnut Oat Squares

Other nuts can be used in place of walnuts or add dried cranberries or raisins if you prefer. Makes 18 squares.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/3 cup (75 ml) butter
- 1 cup (250 ml) pure maple syrup
- 2 cups (500 ml) rolled oats
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped walnuts
- 1 egg, lightly beaten

METHOD:

Line a 9-inch (23-cm) square baking pan with a parchment paper sling (a few inches of paper hanging over two ends). Spray

the other 2 sides with non-stick cooking spray. Pre-heat oven to 375°F (190°C).

In medium saucepan, bring butter and maple syrup to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Continue cooking for 3 minutes.

Remove from heat and stir in oats, walnuts and egg, mixing well. Spread evenly in prepared pan. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until lightly browned.

Cool 10 minutes or wire rack. Run a thin metal spatula around edges. Use the parchment paper overhanging ends to lift the entire slab to a wire rack to cool completely. Cut into squares. Refrigerate, if desired, to firm up.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Eco-sipping

EarthHour

Truth be told, organic booze takes up more grey area on the shelf than it does green. The problem is standards.

International regulations as to what really constitutes an organic product vary considerably; with consumers and retailers alike using the term to cover just about anything with a flower on the label.

When it comes to wine there are very few made with one hundred per cent organic juice. The grapes may be organically grown but there can still be limited artificial stabilization used during the actual winemaking. But there isn't a winemaker with more time to the cause (or with more varietal variety) than California's Bonterra Vineyards.

Their 2006 Zinfandel (\$18.95 - \$21.99) is rich and aromatic with loads of dark chocolate and warm earthiness that would make a perfect partner for beef.

On the spirit side you can make your martinis au naturel with Square One Vodka (\$40.59 - \$52.99). Made with organically grown American rye it's a smooth, silky vodka that loses nothing in the translation.

Prices reflect the range across the country.

Peter Rockwell is the everyday wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

JOHN FOGERTY

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15

Style



Put your green foot forward

Starting next month, Payless ShoeSource stores across Canada will sell fresh green fashions at affordable prices. Their newest line, Zoe & Zac, offers on-trend footwear and accessories averaging about \$50 per item. The line features eco-friendly materials such as organic cottons and linen, natural hemp, recycled outsoles and eco-smart packaging. From the Zoe & Zac collection is the Tigerlily Espadrille Wedge, left, \$44.99.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Second life garments

Sustainable fashion is the future, say eco-friendly designers

PATRICIA D'CUNHA
for Metro Canada

The fashion gods are all clear about one thing — clothes are designed to make people look good.

But, what if looking good can also be eco-friendly? That's a concept some designers have embraced in recent years, but it's yet to envelop mainstream.

Eco-friendly clothes are sustainable and recyclable, in that something that was once a throwaway can now be turned into something new. "Sustainable clothing is a movement away from fashion as a disposable commodity," says Canadian designer Kim Munson.

EarthHour

Munson is founder of Nova Scotia-based Orphanage Clothing. "In the case of Orphanage, one that is extending the life of used textiles."

But, this concept is not entirely applicable to vintage clothing; it's also about not using synthetic fibers, which do not decompose. "Big box retail leads to the consumption of fashion, which in turn leads to more discarded clothing, which ends up in the landfills," Munson explains.

"My biggest thing with sustainability is that it's not a trend, it's very common and it's the future," says Julia Grieve, founder of Preloved, the store and fashion label that creates one-of-a-kind clothing from reclaimed vintage fabrics. Grieve began her career as a model and then started Preloved in 1995. Along the way, she also worked as a fashion editor and writer, and has made appearances on television shows, such as *Diva* on a Dime and *Project Runway* Canada season two.



"You get the people who get freaked out that the dress they just purchased was once a trench coat worn by someone else."

Kim Munson, founder of Orphanage Clothing

"I always call myself the accidental environmentalist," Grieve laughs. "We were doing all this good without even knowing it. In one season, we'll recycle over 80,000 sweaters just to produce our sweater collection."

Grieve says their line is fashion-forward, with attention paid to style and detail.

"Our line is always based on fashion first ... the sustainable side is just the cherry on the top."

Munson, who actually worked at Preloved when she was fresh out of design school, calls the store the "grandfather" of the sustainable clothing method in Canada.

Her own clothing line was founded in 2003, and can be summed up as "edgy street wear" that is timeless and with a flawless cut. Munson always had an affinity for changing up her clothing. Her mother had a clothing line as well, while her grandmother made clothes out of



Men's button down long sleeve, \$89, Orphanage Clothing.

unwanted garments. "You could say it runs in the family," she explains.

Munson says most people think that sustainable clothing lacks in quality and style. But that misconception most always turns into a pleasant surprise. "You get the people who get freaked out that the dress they just purchased was once a trench coat worn by someone else," she says.

Grieve agrees. She says people are often over-the-top when they find out that a dress Preloved designed is made from two different pairs of old trousers and two curtains. "Oh my god, it is so cool," customers often say to her.

While the clothing is eco-friendly, it does cost more to make fashion from reclaimed clothing. "There is a deconstruction phase that happens first. It's a whole other phase that doesn't happen when you're just using regular fabric," says Grieve.

Locations

- Orphanage Clothing is carried at Pro Girl. For more locations go to: orphanage-clothing.com.

Rockin' soles: new Converse shoes feature music imagery

SOFI PAPAMARKO
for Metro Canada

With the release of its spring collection, Converse has revealed its decidedly rock 'n' roll soles.

The brand's latest designs, hailing from its Music Collaboration Collection, feature imagery from some of the great heavyweights of Brit-rock, including The Who, Pink Floyd and Metal God-turned-reality-television-star Ozzy Osbourne.

Additionally, Converse commissioned a number of artists and musicians — Lupe Fiasco and U2's The Edge among them — to custom-design a shoe to benefit Product RED (joined.com).

Fiasco's bilingual shoe plays off the look and feel of newsprint, while The Edge's contribution is an op-art study of geometry as inspired by the points and angles of the Converse star logo. Both limited edition styles are available for purchase beginning this month and all proceeds will go towards Bono's Global Fund.

The Converse Music Collaboration Collection has

previously paid homage to Black Sabbath, The Doors and The Grateful Dead.

But what, exactly, is the connection between footwear and music?

"At some point, every rock singer and musician has worn Chucks," explains Patrick Kavanagh, director of sales and marketing for Converse Canada. "When you put on Chucks, they make you feel free."

Indeed, Chuck Taylors have often been the footwear of choice for noteworthy musicians. The iconic canvas sneaker has outfitted everyone from Kurt Cobain to Phil Collins, from Tom Petty and Joan Jett to Jason Mraz. In-



Converse Chuck Taylor basketball shoes, The Who British Flag Chuck Taylors (nicknamed for the athlete who eventually espoused them) are the antithesis of trendy, high-priced footwear.

This new collection ranges in price from \$70 to \$130 each.

Kenya'sStyle

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle



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Read the blog at metronews.ca/flarefashion

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Glastonbury was almost cancelled for being "too big, too muddy and too horrible." Michael Eavis — who founded the popular music event — has revealed the British festival was nearly scrapped after acts complained it had become too commercial. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONWS.CA

Joel Plaskett

Album: Three
Label: MapleMusic/Universal
Rating: ♂♂♂♂♂

IF ANYONE CAN claim the moniker "hardest working man in show business" it's got to be Plaskett. Since disbanding Thrush Hermit in 1999, the travelling troubadour has been producing album after album of great folk rock. This is his most ambitious project yet. It's an introspective three record behemoth about leaving home and coming back. While it might sound crazy to release 27 songs at once, they're all fantastic. Disc one features the louder tunes, album two is sombre, while the last record picks the tempo back up. A must have for any Canadian music fan.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Read the rest of this week's music reviews at:
metronews.ca/music

Rocking the Earth

Artists make effort to become carbon neutral

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

The ace of spades is turning green.

Since its formative years, rock 'n' roll has been renowned for disregarding anything other than instant gratification. The essence of a great band was to promote a consistently laissez faire attitude. However, as global ecological consciousness takes hold and awareness of our lackadaisical stance toward Mother Earth evolves, a new revolution is pervading.

Rock is going green. Over the past half-century, rock has left a mark on the world yet the impact hasn't been solely societal. There's an environmental compo-

nent to artists such as The Rolling Stones, U2 and Willie Nelson traipsing the globe, promoting their new album and entertaining the masses nightly month after month, year after year.

From carbon-spewing flights and tour busses, massive power drain for lights, decibel-crunching amplification and the generation of trash, even the smallest bands leave an indelible stamp on the planet.

Nonetheless, many artists are making great strides to revert their global toxic shock, striving to become carbon neutral.

Despite many precedents, no established working formula has been set. Many artists are left struggling to find a way to contribute yet all are revered

EarthHour

for their efforts big or small. Witness Willie Nelson's biodiesel-powered buses and Jack Johnson's "EnviroRider" which includes things like backstage recycling containers, locally sourced catering and a voluntary \$1.50 ticket fee to "offset carbon emissions associated with travelling from the show."

David Suzuki heralds The Rolling Stones and Coldplay for offsetting emissions associated with their concerts and albums by reducing and/or planting trees to suck up the noxious gasses and turn them into clean, healthy oxygen.



Newly Swingle

Cameron Diaz is set to star in Swingles. She is in final talks to star in the upcoming romantic comedy as a sharp-tongued woman opposite a male rival, who is still to be cast. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



Jack Johnson's "EnviroRider" includes backstage recycling containers, locally sourced catering and a voluntary \$1.50 ticket fee to "offset carbon emissions associated with traveling from the show."

The green rock revolution is quite young so while a fully green tour is many moons away, as the movement garners attention and support the kinks are slowly worked out. It's a start: Acts aspiring

to generate action from knowledge; hoping that such environmental responsibility will become as infectious as the desire to become a world-travelling guitar hero.



For March 25th

Weekdays @ 9pm
Britney Spears - If U Seek Amy
Black Eyed Peas - Boom Boom Pow
Classified - Anybody Listening
Akon Ft Lil Wayne - I'm So Paid
Soulja Boy Ft Sammie - Kiss Me Thru The Phone
Karl Wolf Ft Culture - Africa
Lady Gaga - Lovegame
Flo Rida - Right Round
Eminem Ft 50 Cent & Dr Dre - Crack A Bottle

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HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
3/26/09	31	31	31	ABC News (N)	ABC World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	In Motherhood	Samantha Who	Grey's Anatomy (N)		Practice
	7	7	7	ASN The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)		Old Christine	Samantha Who	America's Next Top Model		Practice
	11	11	11	CBC Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Doc Zone "The Great Food Revolution Parts 3 and 4"		CBC News: The National		The Hour		The Hour
	2	2	2	CBC-2 Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	Infomaniac (SC)	Enquête (SC)		M pour musique (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS News (N)	Evening News	College Basketball NCAA Tournament Regional Semifinal -- Teams TBA				College Basketball		
	69	69	69	CFTM TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Histoires-filles	Star Académie: La Classe de 5e (N) (SC)			Taxi 0-22 (SC)		TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6	CHIF Entertainment	ET Canada	Life "5 Quarts" (N)				The Office (N)		Kink in Hair News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH etalk	Hollywood	ER "I Feel Good" (N)				Grey's Anatomy (N)		News (N)
	10	10	10	ELTV (6) EastLink Television						Podium TV		EastLink Television
	36	36	36	FOX Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men			American Idol		Hell's Kitchen (N)
	12	12	12	NBC News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood Extra (N)				Name Is Earl		The Office (N)
	29	29	29	NW World News	Business	CBC News	Newman			The Hour Louise Arbour		CBC News: The National
	4	4	4	PBS-B NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	Basic Black				Not for Ourselves Alone-Stanton-Anthony		Not for Ourselves Alone
	35	35	35	PBS-D NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus				This Old Hse.		Yankee Shop
	68	68	68	TQS Drôle	450 chemin	Loft Story	Un monde bête			Rivales * (2000, Docudrame) Jennifer Finnigan, Rel Hunt.		110 pour cent
	36	36	36	BNN Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities			GetConnected		Business News
	18	18	18	CNN Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer	Lou Dobbs Tonight					Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)
	54	54	54	GOLF Golf Central	LPGA Tour Golf: Phoenix LPGA International					PGA Tour Golf Arnold Palmer Invitational -- First Round.		
	52	52	52	RSE Sportsnet Connected	Darts World Premier League.					Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR Hockey Talk	Game On					College Basketball NCAA Tournament Regional Semifinal -- Teams TBA		College Basketball
	45	45	45	SPD Unique Whips						Pink's - All Out (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV)
	53	53	53	TSN Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey! NHL Hockey Tampa Bay Lightning at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)				Bullrun (HDTV)		SportsCentre
	43	43	43	FAM Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards of Waverly Place	Han, Montana			Zack & Cody		Latest Buzz
	44	44	44	TOON Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama			6TEEN		6TEEN
	26	26	26	TREE Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Big & Small	Backyardigans	Night Grdn			Max & Ruby		Franklin
	27	27	27	YTV Drake & Josh	iCarly	True Jackson	H2O, Just Add			Malcolm-Mid.		Futura
	16	16	16	A&E The First 48		The First 48 (HDTV)				The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)
	70	70	70	APTN News (N)	Warriors: TKO	Wapos Bay				By the Rapids		renewedepress
	50	50	50	BET 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top 10	countdown.					Waist Deep * (2006, Action) Tyrese Gibson, Larenz Tate.		The Game
	37	37	37	BRVO Street Legal	Camera	Snapshot				Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		Home Improve.
	25	25	25	CMT Karaoke Star Junior	Our Song	Flashback				Home Improve.		Home Improve.
	49	49	49	COM Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Force	Just for Laughs			Corner Gas		Dumb Criminal
	153	153	153	COURT Truth, Duty, Valour	World's Wildest Police Videos					Cops Uncut		Dumb Criminal
	38	38	38	DISC How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)				Lion Feeding Frenzy		The Fix
	48	48	48	HGTV Holmes on Homes	Holmes on Homes	Property Virgin				Holmes on Homes		The Fix
	46	46	46	HIST Go Deep "Earthrace"	NCIS "Heart Break"					Ancient Discoveries		Go Deep "Earthrace"
	17	17	17	MM Buck Naked	Exposed	Paris Hilton's British Friend				disBand		disBand
	19	19	19	MMM MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com	Back In				Me, Myself and I: Elton John		Revival
	201	201	201	M1 (5:15) There Will Be Blood	The Game Plan ** (2007, Comedy), Madison Pettis					Survivorman		Survivorman
	48	48	48	OLN American Gladiators	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter				Survivorman		Survivorman
	51	51	51	PEACH Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne			Friends		Friends
	206	206	206	PIX (6:10) Two Solitudes	(8:15) 3:10 to Yuma *** (1957, Western)					Unforgiven **** (1992, Western)		Unforgiven **** (1992, Western)
	67	67	67	RDI RDI en direct	RDI en direct					Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW Wife Swap						Love-Death		Love-Death
	40	40	40	SLICE The Mom Show	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part				X-Weighted "Heather"		X-Weighted
	47	47	47	SPACE Stargate SG-1	Stormworld	Grand Star	Star Trek: Voyager			X-Weighted		X-Weighted
	14	14	14	SPICE CSI: NY "Risk" (HDTV)	CSI: Crime Scene Investg.					UFC Unleashed		TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N)
	98	98	98	STAR etalk	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)					Hey Paula		Hey Paula
	21	21	21	TLC What Not to Wear	Overhaul "1956 truck."					Street Customs (N)		Street Customs (N)
	34	34	34	TROP What Happen?	What Happen?					Seinfeld		Seinfeld
	20	20	20	TVS Que-champion	Journal de Fr2					Club social		Club social
	28	28	28	V Murder, She Wrote	Destinations	Fourchette				Wait for God		'Allo, 'Allo!
	97	97	97	VIVA Mysterious Ways	Judging Amy					Most Haunted		Most Haunted
	22	22	22	W Style by Jury	Style by Jury					Divine Design		Divine Design
	251	251	251	WGN Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy			Smallville "Hex" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)

critics' corner

Manufacturing Dissent

It's critical of Michael Moore's methods, but this 2007 documentary from Canadian filmmakers Rick Caine and Debbie Melnyk isn't a hatchet job. Unable to score an interview with the left-leaning documentary filmmaker himself — shades of Moore's own "Roger & Me" — they talk to other people about him, including Ralph Nader and fellow filmmaker Errol Morris. 10 PM on BRAVO



Doc Zone

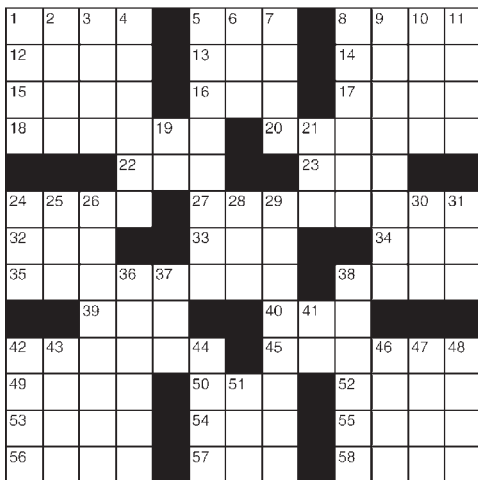
The city never sleeps — they got that right. The two-part documentary "Food" continues with a visit to New York that covers 24 hours in the life of the city's food industry and the people who work in it, from fishermen and dockworkers to food brokers and street vendors. The second hour looks at the future of food through the eyes of scientists, fishermen and foodies, including chef Jamie Oliver. 8 PM on CBC

Samantha Who?

When Todd and Samantha (Barry Watson, Christina Applegate) go on a double date with Andrea (Jennifer Esposito) and her fantasy crush, pro basketball star Tony Dane (McKinley Freeman), Todd makes an awkward discovery that could bench the relationship. Dena (Melissa McCarthy) begins an online relationship with a lonely soldier. Jean Smart also stars in the new episode "My Best Friend's Boyfriend." 9:30 PM on ABC. ASN



For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food



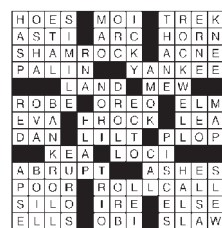
Crossword across

- 1 Requests
- 5 Springtime abbr.
- 8 Standards
- 12 Injure severely
- 13 Kiwi's extinct kin
- 14 Saudi Arabia neighbour
- 15 Curved molding
- 16 Wood-shaping tool
- 17 Peacekeeping grp.
- 18 Whiz
- 20 Capital of Croatia
- 22 Deli loaf
- 23 Floral accessory
- 24 The "Say Hey Kid"
- 27 Still having a rind
- 32 Resume, for short
- 33 Estuary
- 34 Deposit
- 35 Bill Clinton, by birth
- 38 Extra
- 39 Raw rock
- 40 Discoverer's call
- 42 Reverberates
- 45 Look for typos
- 49 Bridge coup
- 50 NAFTA signatory
- 52 Urban carrier
- 53 Cougar
- 54 "Platoon" locale
- 55 Cruising
- 56 Nays' undoers
- 57 College transcript no.
- 58 Opposite of 38-Across

Crossword down

- 1 Andy's pal
- 2 Long story
- 3 Chicken —
- 4 Fingerprints
- 5 Olympians, generally
- 6 Legume holder
- 7 Heckle
- 8 Thin silky fabric
- 9 Texas city
- 10 Assessment
- 11 Uppity one
- 19 Big Apple abbr.
- 21 Milwaukee product
- 24 Biz deg.
- 25 Broadcast
- 26 Japanese city
- 28 Actress Peeples
- 29 Complete view
- 30 Listener
- 31 Go red?
- 36 Scents
- 37 Born
- 38 Human
- 41 That guy
- 42 Get a glimpse of
- 43 Fingerprint, often
- 44 Trilled
- 46 Relaxation
- 47 Graph lines
- 48 "Buenos —"
- 51 Enervate

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	3	4	9	5	1	2	6	8
6	2	9	4	8	7	1	5	3
8	5	1	6	2	3	4	7	9
9	1	8	3	6	5	7	2	4
3	4	7	2	1	9	5	8	6
5	6	2	8	7	4	3	9	1
1	8	5	7	4	6	9	3	2
2	7	3	1	9	8	6	4	5
4	9	6	5	3	2	8	1	7

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

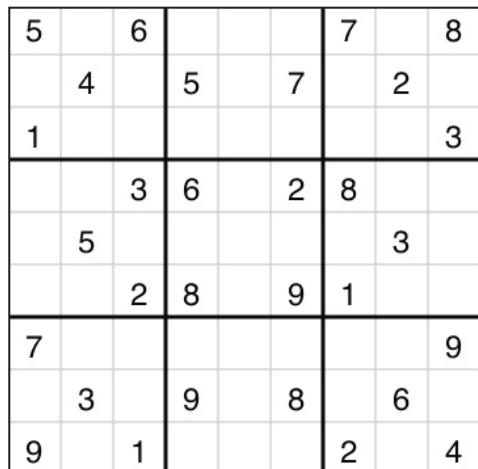
SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 minGenius
- 13-17 minScholar
- 17-21 minSmart
- 21-25 minNot bad
- 25+ minKeep practising

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Metro Recipe of the Day



Beefy Mushroom Barley Soup

INGREDIENTS:

- 12 oz (375 g) beef chuck, cut into 1-in. (2.5-cm) cubes
- 3 medium onions, coarsely chopped
- 10 oz (300 g) mushrooms, sliced
- 3 large carrots, sliced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) pearl barley
- 7 cups (1.75 l) low-salt beef broth
- 1 cup (250 ml) dry white wine or tomato juice
- salt to taste
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) pepper
- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen peas
- 2 tsp (10 ml) lemon juice

METHOD:

- 1. Coat large pot with non-stick cooking spray and set over medium-high heat until hot but not smoking. Sauté beef until brown, about 5 minutes.

Transfer to double layer of paper towels with slotted spoon.

- 2. Sauté onions and mushrooms in pot drippings until onions are golden, about 7 minutes. Return beef to pot. Stir in carrots, barley, broth, wine, salt and pepper, then boil.
- 3. Reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer, partially covered, until beef and barley are tender, about 45 minutes. Stir in peas and cook, uncovered, until tender, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice.

SERVES 6

rd.ca



Horoscopes

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Deal with a health issue immediately. Speak plainly of a flight of fancy. Never say never when it comes to extreme motivation.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Have some comfort food and a mini-vacation. A woman's troubles will ease soon. A friend's chronic complaining will stop.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Expect a minor amount of doubtfulness. Steer clear of a temperamental fiend. Express your respect for a logical argument.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Tension subsides when a woman shows kindness. Don't take sides in an argument. Your heart is wrenched by a pitiful story.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A companion's sharp emotional edges are dangerous. Grief causes gloom but progress brings ease. A motivated person causes disruption.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Somebody's unbridled passion is unnerving. A minor spat makes you take shelter. It's time to let go of unnecessary luxuries.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't be baffled by a war of words. Release someone from a stressful place. A hero is ludicrously lacking good judgment.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't expect too much. Misconduct erupts as a result of imminent changes. Avoid getting hot under the collar.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Dreadful decadence causes remorse. A social caller rewards you for exuberance. Flattery and gossip will get you somewhere.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You'll witness a stranger's act of kindness. Let the good times roll with laughter and zest. Explain your actions lucidly, without losing patience.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A concerned note helps you to find an error. Love lessons are learned the easy way. Avoid having a lively conversation while working.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A problem is solved by listening. A late arrival can cause mortification. Be on your guard when someone is neglectful.

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This day in history

MARCH 26, 1830: The Book of Mormon is published in Palmyra, New York.

MARCH 26, 1977: Focus on the Family is founded by Dr. James Dobson.

MARCH 26, 1982: A groundbreaking ceremony for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is held in Washington, DC.

MARCH 26, 1996: The International Monetary Fund approves a \$10.2 billion loan for Russia.

MARCH 26, 1999: A jury in Michigan finds Dr. Jack Kevorkian guilty of second-degree murder for administering a lethal injection to a terminally ill man.

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She's not quite ready to hit the dance floor yet, but Nancy O'Dell is on the path to recovery. The Access Hollywood co-host, who had to pull out of Dancing with the Stars before the season premiere this month, is resting at home after knee surgery. PEOPLE.COM

Nancy nursing knee

Celebrity Buzz

Ballroom a lot like bulls: Ty

PEOPLE Ballroom dancing is no different from getting into the ring with a bull—at least to season eight Dancing with the Stars contender Ty Murray, people.com reports.

In a MySpace video posted this week, the rodeo star is asked who he thinks is his toughest competitor on the show. He says, "I look at (the competition) just like I did my bull riding career. I don't have any control over the other competitors, I just gotta keep control of myself and make sure that I'm able to hopefully focus in and not get the jitters too bad."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bruce and Emma met on the job

PEOPLE Bruce Willis reportedly met his new wife, Emma Heming, through rather unusual circumstances. Sources tell Page Six that the actor practically cast her in the role, having met her while looking for actresses for his movie Perfect Stranger.

Willis is said to have made sure to be present when the actresses he liked came in, and he started dating Heming shortly after her audition, a source tells the newspaper.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Angie starving self?

HEALTH Angelina Jolie has reportedly taken on a risky diet to slim down for Salt, the movie she's currently filming in New York.

According to Britain's the Sun, Jolie has shed 21 pounds in as many days while on an all-liquid diet.

"She does all her own stunts but we worry she could injure herself due to the weight loss," a source tells the paper.

Meanwhile, Grazia magazine reports the actress has only lost eight pounds, but that people around her are still just as concerned. The magazine

claims Brad Pitt grew so fed up with her fasting that he stormed out of their rented Long Island home.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Paul and Nancy like lovebirds

RELATIONSHIP Paul McCartney and his girlfriend acted like "besotted teenagers" during a night out this week, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 66-year-old musician and his 48-year-old partner Nancy Shevell stunned fellow guests at the London after-party for The Boat That Rocked movie premiere this week with their public displays of affection and frequent

outings to the dancefloor. At one point the couple gyrated to Rolling Stones classic Satisfaction.

"Paul was having a great time. He was on brilliant form, mingling with partygoers," a source said. "Fans were asking for pictures and he was happily obliging and Nancy looked so loved-up and content." McCartney used the party

to introduce Shevell—who he has reportedly been dating since November 2007—to his friends and was delighted when they bonded quickly.

The source added to Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper: "As well as speaking to the movie cast, including Rhys Ifans and Bill Nighy, Paul made a big deal of introducing Nancy to his friends Twiggy and Kenneth Branagh.

"He looked quite nervous but soon they were laughing like old friends and the idea of a dinner party was mooted."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



I'm too busy for Obama: Simon

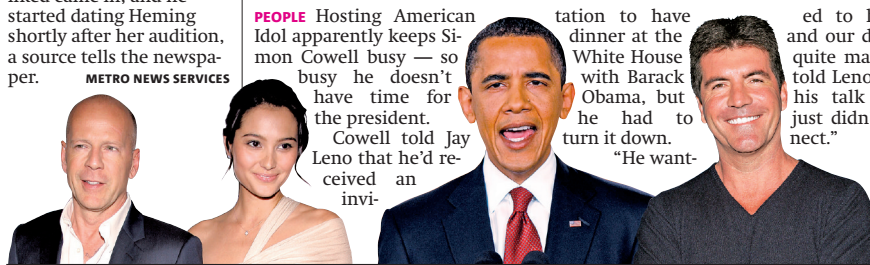
PEOPLE Hosting American Idol apparently keeps Simon Cowell busy—so busy he doesn't have time for the president.

Cowell told Jay Leno that he'd received an invi-

tation to have dinner at the White House with Barack Obama, but he had to turn it down. "He want-

ed to have dinner and our diaries didn't quite match," Cowell told Leno recently on his talk show. "We just didn't quite connect."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Chris hitting the books at college?

PEOPLE Chris Brown has dismissed rumours he's going back to school after he was spotted visiting a university campus in his native Virginia at the weekend, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, 19, prompted claims he was set to hit the books at Norfolk State University after he was seen walking the school grounds with his mother and cousin.

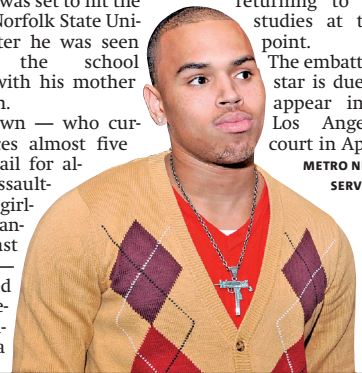
But Brown—who currently faces almost five years in jail for allegedly assaulting on/off girlfriend Rihanna last month—has denied the reports, insisting a

relative is a prospective student at the university.

A representative for Brown tells TMZ.com the singer visited the college as a "support factor" for his cousin, and has "not applied," "not enrolled" and is "not interested" in returning to his studies at this point.

The embattled star is due to appear in a Los Angeles court in April.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Robert stinks!

PEOPLE Robert Pattinson has admitted in the past to his problems with keeping himself clean, telling Showbiz Spy, "I don't have too much of a sense of personal hygiene or styling or anything. I gave up washing my hair a while back."

But now his filthy ways are reportedly wreaking havoc on the set of New Moon, the sequel to Twilight that is currently filming in Vancouver.

On-set sources tell E! News that the young British star "completely reeks." "He stinks. I mean, it's awful. He

never showers, and it drives people on the set crazy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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Victoria strips down for Armani

Victoria Beckham has stripped off once again for a new Emporio Armani Underwear shot. The gorgeous fashion icon leans seductively back over a bed in just a bra, thong and high heels, in possibly her most intimate pose yet. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



Celebrity Buzz

I don't deserve fame: Chris

PEOPLE Chris Martin doesn't believe he deserves success, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Despite selling millions of albums worldwide, the Coldplay frontman feels he must prove the group has earned their place at the top of the charts.

"Every day I wake up and think, 'OK, today we've got to really prove ourselves. We've got to justify where we are,'" he said. "I always feel like my dad's going to burst through my bedroom door at any moment and wake me up to go back to my real job."

Despite his self-doubt, the Viva La Vida singer isn't worried about his critics because he knows not everyone will like his music.

He added: "We're like Vegemite in many respects. A lot of people like us, but many more people don't. I'd like to convince everyone that our particular brand of Vegemite is brilliant, but it's never going to happen."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Britney runs up \$2.7M legal tab

PEOPLE Britney Spears has spent \$2.7 million US in lawyers' fees in the past 11 months, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Circus singer — who has managed to turn her life around following her public meltdown early last year — was forced to pay \$417,000 to legally end her two-year marriage to Kevin Federline and the subsequent custody battle over their two children, Sean Preston, three, and two-year-old Jayden James.

Fees were also paid to 17 lawyers and firms, including \$1 million for Spears'

own attorneys.

Lawyer Geraldine Wyle — who represents Spears' father Jamie, who is legally in control of his daughter's estate — said: "Since the initiation of the conservatorship, as a result of the concerted efforts of Mr. Spears as well as the pro-

fessionals involved, all aspects of Ms. Spears' life have been stabilized and continue to improve.

According to Wyle, Spears — who was twice held in a psy-



chiatric ward before her father was put in control — faces "complex and challenging issues" which have run up huge costs.

However, she admitted the mother-of-two's mental health had improved over the last year and has won "substantial visitation" with her sons and her career "has been revitalized."

Spears is currently on a sold-out world tour and has been honoured with a plaque to commemorate the huge success of her latest album, Circus.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna house hunting?

PEOPLE Rihanna was "in a great mood" when she checked out a \$6.25 million US home this week that used to belong to Jerry Seinfeld, the real estate agent she worked with tells us-magazine.com.

"She was very quiet," Russ Filice of Sotheby's International Realty tells us. The 5,913-square-foot, three-bedroom Hollywood Hills home "has incredible views, a contemporary pool and is very private," he adds.

"Rihanna just started her search. She looked at three homes with three assistants and a driver," adds Filice. "Her questions were centered around her lifestyle in the house; how she could entertain, how private it is."

The singer spent about 15 to 20 min-

utes at the property. "She was in a great mood," Filice says. She didn't bring up Chris Brown — who faces felony charges for allegedly beating her — and "there were no scars, no bruises, no nothing. (She is) very sweet, very pretty."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lauren's label 'on hiatus'

CAREER Lauren Conrad has taken to her Celebrity Myspace blog to clear up rumors about her clothing line, which is currently "on hiatus," us-magazine.com reports.

"A few days ago a statement was released to the showrooms that carry my clothing line. It asked them to let the stores know that I was planning to take a couple seasons off from my line so that I could make some changes that I felt were necessary," she writes.

"As a result, a lot of people were under the

impression that my line was being discontinued or had been dropped," she continues. "This isn't the case at all. The truth is, I was the one who asked to take a couple seasons off."

Conrad says she has "learned so much in the past year and I want to apply that to the improvement of my clothing line. I also wanted to make some changes in production so I would be able to lower the price point. That being said, I am actually really excited about beginning this process."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jacko planning a menagerie

CAREER Michael Jackson has big plans for his set of 50 concerts in London this summer, and those plans reportedly include a menagerie of exotic animals.

"He hopes to make it the most spectacular gig ever," a source tells the Daily Mirror. "For the jungle section, he wants to ride out on an African elephant with panthers led on gold chains. Parrots and other birds will fly behind him. If it goes to plan it will look incredible."

Jackson is reportedly "desperate to work around" Britain's animal welfare laws that would preclude using some of the non-domestic creatures.



Katy and Josh friends not lovers

RUMOUR Katy Perry and Josh Groban may sound like a perfect couple, but contrary to rumours of a relationship between the two, the two singers are "very close friends" — not romantically involved, according to Josh's rep, people.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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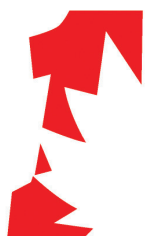
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